

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 and amend claim 14 as follows.

1 1. (Cancelled)

1 2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Cancelled)

1 4. (Cancelled)

1 5. (Cancelled)

1 6. (Cancelled)

1 7. (Cancelled)

1 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Cancelled)

1 10. (Original) A method for performing a finishing lapping process to a
2 magnetic head, comprising:
3 dispensing lapping media onto an interface surface of a compliant pad;
4 engaging the interface surface to the surface of a head outside a region comprising
5 magnetic transducers defining a head gap; and

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Amendment

6 moving the pad over the head in a direction parallel to the head gap while using a
7 head rail to guide the pad.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the moving further comprises
2 oscillating the pad linearly over the head parallel to the head gap.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the lapping media contains a
2 combination of chemical and mechanical agents.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the chemical etchants are
2 etchants specifically adjusted to give a desired head profile for the poletips and shields.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the etchants are
2 formed by adding dilute acid to the ~~conventional~~ lapping media used at the interface surface.

1 15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the added etchant selectively
2 removes iron containing poles and shields to advance the poletips below a surrounding
3 insulator layer.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the magnetic head comprises
2 a MR element and shields defining a MR read sensor, and wherein the moving of the soft,
3 compliant pad causes the mechanical agents to eliminate element conducting connections and
4 smears between the MR element and shields.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the moving further comprises
2 moving the pad from one end of the head to another and reversing the direction without
3 stopping on the element.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the soft, compliant pad
2 conforms to the head rail to provide a parallel movement during the moving.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the soft, compliant pad
2 comprises a fabric mat.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the fabric mat comprises a
2 cotton mat.